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ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY
DEBATE

hosted by Student Media

STUDENT MEDIA TO HOST ASB DEBATE

Tonight, student media will host the Associated Student Body debate for the first time in recent history. The debate begins at 6 p.m. at the Overby Center.



REBELS' TOURNAMENT BERTH BRINGS OPTIMISM TO PROGRAM

Ole Miss and head coach Kermit Davis's unexpected season comes to an end in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, but the future is bright for the program going forward.

SEE PAGE 7

ASB candidates re-evaluate campaign spending

HADLEY HITSON
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

This year's candidates for Associated Student Body president disagree on the state of campaign finances almost a full school year after the ASB Election Reform Task Force was established. Founded this past fall, the task force's mission has been to make the Ole Miss student elections more accessible.

"I think people are encouraged that we are looking at the budgets and spending of can-

didates, but we still have a long way to go in terms of getting more diverse people running for campus elections," said Katherine Sistrunk, co-director of the task force.

While the task force was not officially formed until last fall, Sistrunk said one of the main accomplishments ASB has made in election reform occurred in April 2018 when the Senate voted to lower the limits for candidates' campaign budgets.

In the last general election, presidential and vice-presi-

dential candidates were able to spend up to \$1,500, while other candidates for executive office had a spending cap of \$1,000, and Senate campaigns were limited to a budget of \$300.

This year, the spending caps are \$1,000 for all candidates for executive offices and \$100 for Senate candidates.

ASB presidential candidate Barron Mayfield said he does not agree with the lowered limit on campaign spending.

"I do not think this is a sufficient amount," Mayfield said.

"I think allowing campaigns to spend more money would enable candidates to campaign more creatively and allow more opportunities for lower-profile candidates to raise their name recognition (and) base of support."

However, he suggested creating a process for ASB to fund a portion of each candidate's campaign.

"I feel like elections should be more about who you are as a person and how you can best represent the campus," said Leah Davis, co-director of

the task force and current ASB presidential candidate. "Being a candidate, I'm seeing how much money goes into this stuff, and it doesn't have to be this way. It doesn't have to be all about money."

ASB presidential candidate Tom Fowlkes said he is in support of election reform and a constant re-evaluation of the system to ensure that every student is given equal opportunity to impact change at the university.

"I believe that it is rational to

SEE ASB PAGE 3

The Big Event leads 150 service projects



At the Big Event this Saturday, over 1,500 students volunteered in the Oxford community. The Big Event raised \$12,000 to put up new bookshelves in the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library.

SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE PHOTOS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report finds Trump didn't conspire

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department declared Sunday that special counsel Robert Mueller's long investigation did not find evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election, setting off celebrations of vindication by Trump and his supporters. Mueller also investigated whether Trump obstructed justice but did not come to a definitive answer.

In a four-page letter to Congress, Attorney General William Barr quoted Mueller's report as stating it "does not exonerate" the president on obstruction. Instead, Barr said, it "sets out evidence on both sides of the question."

Trump, in Florida, said the report proved "there was no collusion" as he has contended for many months. He also claimed it showed there was no obstruction and said it was a shame that

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From the editor

Why student journalists are moderating this year’s ASB debate



SLADE RAND
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This election season, we’re changing some things. When our team of student media managers returned to campus this past fall, we wanted to make a difference in the way this student body interacted with its Associated Student Body

representatives. To us, one of the most direct ways to put a new mentality into how student government elections happen on this campus was to make the ASB debate more reflective of how government works outside of a college environment. Tonight, for the first time in years on this campus, student journalists will moderate the ASB executive candidates’ debate in the Overby Center auditorium.

We opened up our inboxes and social media accounts for students to submit questions they’d like our candidates to answer, and I’m proud to say that we will be able to ask many of those questions tonight. Thank you for showing us exactly what

this election means to you.

Tonight, we need you all to show up or follow on our Facebook and Twitter pages as our 13 candidates debate. The action is set to get underway at 6 p.m. in the Overby Center auditorium and shouldn’t last more than an hour and a half. We’ll be live streaming video to our Facebook the whole time. Candidates will be around for about 45 minutes before we begin, campaigning and, hopefully, meeting as many of you as possible. We expect them to also hang out after the debate in case you have some more questions we couldn’t cover.

These elections are important every year, but it’s no secret that a vast mi-

nority of the student body actually votes in them. Only 3,300 students voted in last year’s runoff election for ASB President. That election was determined by a margin of around 200 votes. On a campus pushing 24,000 in undergraduate enrollment, it’s clear our friends and classmates could be a lot more involved in how we select which of us will rise to the highest level of student leadership. I’m asking you to start being a part of that increased involvement tonight and to let us know how we did. We’ll see you at 6 p.m.

COLUMN

It takes a village: Student mental health



LEVI BEVIS
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

Last Tuesday, March 19, Active Minds held its second exhibit of Send Silence Packing in the Grove. This eye-opening event commemorates college students across the nation who die by suicide each year, and it seeks to spark conversations about student mental health and well-being.

It is interesting that this event coincided with some personal experiences I had in navigating issues of student mental health that same week. Multiple friends shared their struggles with anxiety or depression or their concerns regarding how to help other friends. Unfortunately, stu-

dents on our campus experiencing these struggles are not alone.

Across the nation, college students are experiencing increasing rates of anxiety and depression. A 2016 report from clinicians at Boston University states that approximately 16 percent of college students had been diagnosed or treated for anxiety. A 2018 survey from the American College Health Association found that approximately 3 out of every 5 college students had experienced “overwhelming anxiety” within the past year, and approximately 2 out of every 5 students reported experiencing depression so severe it affected their ability to function.

The phenomenon is not even unique to the U.S. A recent report from the World Health Organization found that approximately 35 percent of college freshmen from eight countries struggled with some sort of mental illness. These statistics illustrate that student mental health is a pressing issue for universities both in the U.S. and abroad.

With these numbers in

mind, we each know and interact with people every day who struggle with some form of mental illness. What, then, can be done to help our peers or ourselves in navigating these challenges?

One of the most important things we can do is watch out for each other. The University of Mississippi fosters a uniquely close-knit community where most students know each other. We often greet each other with a “How are you?” that is usually met with a brief response of “I am fine.”

The next time we greet our friends and acquaintances, we should conscientiously ask, “How are you, really?” when greeted with the usual “I am fine” response. We need to take time to truly check in with our friends and listen to them. If they seem overwhelmed or distressed, invite them to lunch, schedule an activity with them so you can talk further or just be there to listen. Sometimes, a listening ear and a reassuring hug may be exactly what someone needs to keep moving forward.

Another key way to navigate these challenges: Be kind to others. Small gestures matter. Something as simple as complimenting someone on a quality you admire about them or offering to pay for the order of the person in line behind you lets others know that you value their presence.

Whatever you do, do it with kindness. As the Greek philosopher Plato once stated, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.”

It is also important to know that resources are available if you are struggling with depression or anxiety. The University Counseling Center is tremendously helpful both for those navigating an issue themselves and for those who may be helping others navigate issues.

By listening to others, being kind and being aware, we can all do our part to support each other through the challenges college life brings our way.

Levi Bevis is a senior public policy leadership major from Florence, Alabama.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

ASB

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lower the spending limit for campaigns. Less time will require less money,” Fowlkes said. “This smaller time frame and lower budget will lessen the burden on candidates and decrease the opportunity cost of running.”

The Election Reform Task Force also worked with the ASB Senate this semester to pass a bill shortening the campaign period from 16 days to 12 days, which will come into effect in the fall 2019 personality elections.

“We decreased that to kind of match that budget,” Sistrunk said. “Because you have less days to campaign, you don’t need to spend as much money.”

Sistrunk said one of her main goals within the task force is to institute equal access for all students, Greek and non-Greek, to run for elected leadership roles on campus. She thinks the combination of a shorter time campaigning and lowered spending will help do so.

“It will take a little bit of time,” Sistrunk said. “Now that the campaign period will be shorter, I think those two things, (the shortened campaigning period and the lowered campaign budgets), have to work together in order to make the most impact.”

Part of the problem Sistrunk sees is that, while candidates are not required to spend the maximum amount on their campaigns, they are at a great disadvantage if they opt to spend less.

“You don’t have to spend all that money, but if you don’t spend the money to have the signs, stickers and everything, it’s hard to even compete in an election,” Sistrunk said.

The task force is not currently meeting because of Davis’s campaign for ASB president, according to Sistrunk, but it plans to reconvene after the election season. Davis is the only non-Greek candidate running for an executive position in ASB this year.

“Our goal is to encourage all the members of our community to run in elections, both Greek and non-Greek, just to have diverse members of our community participating in elections,” Sistrunk said. “We want to encourage people who don’t think they can run because they don’t



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Associated Student Body presidential candidates disagree on whether new campaign restrictions are necessary.

have the funding or the backing from an organization.”

Sistrunk said to expect legislation addressing the lack of

diverse students and representation in fall personality elections to come to the ASB Senate floor by the end of the semester.

MUELLER

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he and the nation had to suffer through “an illegal takedown that failed.”

Barr released his summary of Mueller’s report Sunday afternoon. Mueller wrapped up his investigation on Friday with no new indictments, bringing to a close a probe that has shadowed Trump for nearly two years.

But the broader fight is not over.

Congress’s top Democrats, Chuck Schumer of New York in the Senate and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, put out a statement saying Barr’s letter raises as many questions as it answers, including about his own decision not to prosecute on possible obstruction.

“Given Mr. Barr’s public record of bias against the special counsel’s inquiry, he is not a neutral observer and is not in a position to make objective determinations about the report,” they said in their statement.

Trump’s claim of complete exoneration “directly contradicts the words of Mrs. Mueller and is not to be taken with any degree of credibility,” they added.

The Justice Department summary sets up a battle between Barr and Democrats, who called for Mueller’s full report to be released and vowed to press on with their own investigation.

For Trump, Barr’s report was a victory on a key question that has hung over his presidency from the start: Did his campaign work with Russia to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton?

Still, Mueller’s investigation left open the question of whether Trump obstructed justice by firing FBI Director James Comey and drafting an incomplete explanation about his son’s meeting with a Russian lawyer during the campaign. That left it to the attorney general to decide.

After consulting with other department officials, Barr said he and his deputy, Rod Rosenstein, determined the evidence “is not sufficient to establish that the president committed an obstruction of justice offense.”

Barr, nominated to his job by Trump last fall, said their decision was based on the evidence uncovered by Mueller and not based on whether a sitting president can be indicted.

Trump was at his Florida estate when lawmakers received the report. Barr’s chief of staff called Emmet Flood, the lead White House lawyer on the investigation, to brief him on the findings shortly before he sent it to Congress.

Mueller’s investigation ensnared nearly three dozen people, including some senior Trump campaign operatives. The probe illuminated Russia’s assault on the American political system, painted the Trump campaign as eager to exploit the release of

hacked Democratic emails to hurt Democrat Hillary Clinton and exposed lies by Trump aides aimed at covering up their Russia-related contacts.

Mueller submitted his report to Barr instead of directly to Congress and the public because, unlike independent counsels such as Ken Starr in the case of President Bill Clinton, his investigation operated under the close supervision of the Justice Department, which appointed him.

The House Judiciary Committee chairman said Congress needs to hear from Barr about his decision and see “all the underlying evidence.”

Mueller “clearly and explicitly is not exonerating the president,” Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., said in a series of tweets, but Barr is telling “the American people that while the president is not exonerated, there will be no action by DOJ.”

“There must be full transparency in what special counsel Mueller uncovered to not exonerate the president from wrongdoing. DOJ owes the public more than just a brief synopsis and decision not to go any further in their work,” Nadler tweeted.

Barr said that Mueller “thoroughly” investigated the question of whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia’s election interference, issuing more than 2,800 subpoenas, obtaining nearly 500 search warrants and interviewing 500 witnesses.

However, Mueller was not able


to interview Trump in person.

Barr said Mueller also catalogued the president’s actions including “many” that took place in “public view,” a possible nod to Trump’s public attacks on investigators and witnesses.


In the letter, Barr said he concluded that none of Trump’s actions constituted a federal crime that prosecutors could prove in court.

Democrats are saying that the

House voted nearly unanimously, 420-0, to release the full Mueller report, which they say is more important now than ever. “This is about transparency and truth — and a 4-page summary from Trump’s AG doesn’t cut it,” tweeted Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. “The American people deserve to see the whole thing.”



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Meet the ASB presidential candidates

Student media will host all 13 Associated Student Body executive officer candidates for a debate tonight in the Overby Center auditorium, which will replace the candidate debate that was previously hosted and moderated by the ASB itself. Here is what the three presidential candidates want students to know about them before the debate.

LEAH DAVIS



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

My name is Leah Davis, and I am a junior psychology student from Tupelo. I initially joined ASB through Freshman Council. That program connected me to campus and really ignited my passion for ASB. I served on several committees that year and got involved with any ASB initiative I could. I learned so much about our campus and the students here, but I also learned the intricacies that ASB is comprised of. For the past two years, I have been serving as the co-director of inclusion and cross-cultural engagement for ASB. I have been on the frontlines of student advocacy. I have diligently worked to include all student organizations, bring everyone together and foster dialogue about various campus issues such as inclusion, awareness and community. These experiences have shown me improvements that ASB can make to ensure we are representing the students as best we can. The slogan for my campaign is “Moving Forward.” In order to best serve students, ASB must continue to progress and tailor its initiatives and goals to meet students’ needs. I believe this can best be accomplished by focusing on access, consensus and wellness.

Many students feel that ASB student leaders are very disconnected from the student body. Additionally, students often feel ignored by the university’s administration. As students are the center of this campus, it is crucial that everyone feels confident in their leadership and representation. ASB must secure direct representation with the chancellor and senior leadership. This will be one of my primary goals. ASB has an opportunity to evaluate and reshape its existing structures to align with student needs and become a more effective advocate in our shared governance system. To establish consensus, every student needs to be represented within ASB. By selecting more diverse and qualified candidates in my Cabinet, ASB can ensure that students are effectively being represented. Finally, ASB can do more to highlight the growing mental health problem on campus. As students, we should support each other and discuss the issues that we face. By establishing a health and wellness position on ASB, we will do everything we can to ensure that all students get the services they need.

Most importantly, I want the students on this campus to be seen and to feel confident in their representatives. The students are the heartbeat of this campus, and they deserve a student government that truly cares about them and their needs. My name is Leah Davis, and I would love to be your next ASB President.

TOM FOWLKES



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

My name is Tom Fowlkes, and I am majoring in accounting and public policy leadership. Born and raised up the road in Memphis, Tennessee, I come from a family that bleeds red and blue — we traveled religiously to Oxford for home football games. My father and his two sisters graduated from Ole Miss years ago, and when I enrolled, my brother and three of my cousins were on campus to greet me. I have always loved the University of Mississippi, but what truly brought me to Ole Miss, as a student, was the momentum surrounding this place. Whether it’s the academics, athletics or atmosphere, no one can deny that we have the potential to be a preeminent school in the SEC.

But even with all of this momentum, there have been daily issues during my three years on campus that continually hold our school back from achieving its true potential. That is why I am running. I want what we all want: the school to be its best so that we can be our best. So, to help us unleash the Ole Miss MomentUM, I desire to do three things: communicate, advocate and accelerate the things we do well.

The first thing we, as an Associated Student Body, must do is bring the daily workings of the student body’s government down to those it represents: the students. From an intense social media push that presents daily updates on the actions of the ASB to frequent polls that gauge student opinion and drive government action, we must be able to present the students’ government to them constantly and transparently. Secondly, once the ASB has communicated effectively, we must advocate for the students effectively. That means opening conversations with the administration and faculty about our needs, and at times, that means a strong, unified, relentless call for action. Finally, we must accelerate the parts of our government that work. I appreciate the work of this past year’s student government, for they brought the executive and legislative branches much closer. We must continue to improve that process by better relaying everything that occurs within those interbranch meetings to the students.

On a personal level, since arriving on campus, I sought to involve myself in organizations that help drive our momentum. My first experience with the Associated Student Body came through Freshman Council and continued as I held a seat on the ASB Senate the spring of my sophomore year, serving as the vice-chairman of the inclusion and cross-cultural engagement committee. This year, I was only able to serve briefly on the ASB because a required accounting night class kept me from being able to attend the weekly cabinet meetings, but during that time I learned the inner-workings of the executive branch and the office of the presidency. Outside of the Associated Student Body, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve for three years in the Ole Miss chapter of Coaching for Literacy, which is a non-profit organization that partners with the athletic department to raise money and awareness in the fight against illiteracy in Mississippi. I am a member of an IFC fraternity, Sigma Chi, where I co-managed our yearly philanthropy week benefitting the William Magee Center for Wellness Education, and I am a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. My faith in God has led me to attend Reformed University Fellowship as well as Christ Presbyterian Church on Sundays, and I use my time outside of clubs and organizations to cheer on my friends on the Ole Miss athletics teams.

Now that you know a little about me, I want to learn a little about you. Throughout this campaign, I want to hear every student’s ideas on how we can unleash our momentum, and if you see me around campus or at my sign, please don’t hesitate to approach me and say something. I promise I won’t make you take a sticker. This campaign is about harnessing our potential as a university and as a student body. My name is Tom Fowlkes, and I need your help. Only together can we unleash the Ole Miss MomentUM.

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BARRON MAYFIELD



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

When I first arrived on campus, I didn't know a single person. Since then, I have been given a family that loves and supports me, afforded opportunities I could have never imagined or asked for and received a place to truly call home. However, I have oftentimes felt disenfranchised and as though the challenges I encounter on a daily basis go unaddressed. I'm running because I want to ensure that we, as students, are given every opportunity to succeed and excel.

Throughout this campaign, I always go back to students first because, unfortunately, we are simply not the priority right now. Time and time again, we are left out of the conversations that matter and denied a voice on issues that directly impact us. The IHL, the governing body of universities in the state, has no student representation. The administration ignores the student voice on things as simple as fixing the blue lights and offering more SI sessions. Within the ASB Senate, transfer students, international students and student veterans have no means of representation despite the fact that they face unique sets of issues. The alumni and the national news media drag us through the mud, and we dedicate weeks of our time catering to hate groups or dealing with offensive Facebook posts instead of working to improve students' days.

"Students first" means advocating for every student every day. When we make a commitment to putting students first, and when we insert ourselves into conversations that matter, we can make a real and lasting impact that will benefit students for years to come. I have found that the biggest issues we face on our campus are not political and cultural, as outsiders might have you believe. Rather, they center around our unique student experiences. Things like the broken registration process, difficulty in obtaining materials like scantrons and books and an inconsistent grading scale are real problems that we all encounter.

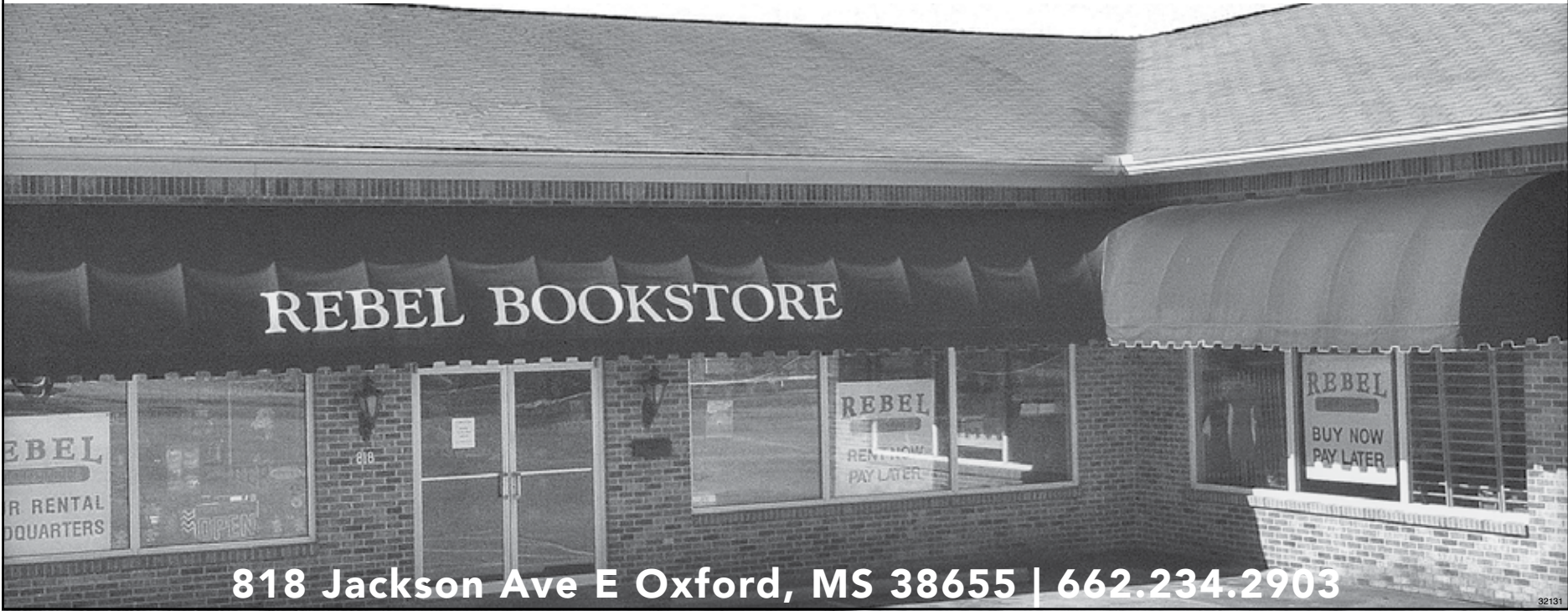
To address these real issues, we must work together to increase representation, advocacy and results. From the IHL down to the ASB Senate we must ensure our voices are heard so that our unique perspectives are always considered. When it comes to mental health resources, academics, student life — any aspect of the student experience — we must be passionate about advocating for every student every day. Finally, we must deliver results because we can no longer afford not to. My name is Barron Mayfield, and I am running to serve as your next Associated Student Body President because it is time that we put students first.

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COLUMN

Season signifies Ole Miss moving in the right direction

JOSHUA CLAYTON
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

This was a success. These words might have been hard to mutter for Ole Miss fans on Friday afternoon, as it's impossible to watch your team get slashed 95-72 without a bad taste in your mouth. However, despite the Rebels' dismal performance against Oklahoma in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament, Ole Miss basketball fans should be able to look back at the season with a smile. Kermit Davis came to Oxford last March looking to change a culture of losing in The Pavilion. He inherited a squad that was picked to be the worst team in the SEC for the second time in a row and a distant third sport on the campus radar behind football and baseball. Fast forward a year and there's a line of students wrapped around The Pavillion trying to get into the student

section, the Rebels are going toe-to-toe with top-ten programs like Tennessee and Kentucky in games that are going down to the wire, and Ole Miss basketball is on the national radar. Anyone who tells you they saw this coming is lying to you. The hiring of the Leaksville native and Mississippi State alum has been a slam dunk for Ole Miss Athletics Director Ross Bjork and the administration, as Davis was able to come in and squeeze every ounce of potential out of this roster almost immediately. Devontae Shuler ran the offense with confidence and precision despite battling a foot injury throughout the season. Brein Tyree turned into a walking bucket liable to take over a game at any moment. Terence Davis frequently showed that he was the most athletic player on the court, dunking on anyone foolish enough to get in between him and the rim. Two freshmen, K.J. Buffen



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON
Ole Miss guard Brein Tyree is guarded by Iowa State player at the game earlier this season. The Rebels lost 73-87.

and Blake Hinson, showed they can be a force to be reckoned with in the SEC for years to come. Bruce Stevens and Dominik Olejniczak were able to piece together some good performances at the center position down the stretch. Former walk-on D.C. Davis even came on to give the Rebels productive minutes throughout the season. This overall boost in the team's production is a result of a brilliant coaching job, but anyone who has followed Ole Miss basketball will tell you this team had a different swagger about them. The team enjoyed overwhelming support from around campus. The success on the court played a role in that, but when Devontae Shuler and his teammates decided to kneel in protest of a neo-Confederate rally on campus before the victory over Georgia on Feb. 23, it became evident that the Ole Miss faithful were behind this

squad in a way that went past basketball. But this was only the beginning. The team grinded their way to a 20-13 overall record, tying for sixth in the league. This is relatively successful, but Kermit Davis expects more. Now, Davis can pivot his focus to his first recruiting class at Ole Miss. He has the task of bringing in the first group of freshmen that can truly fit the system he's going to run. The success on the court, with an inherited roster and the new hectic energy captured in "Club Red" during the season, will be in his back pocket as he speaks with prospective Rebels. After the first year of the Kermit Davis era, the trajectory of the Ole Miss basketball program looks to be ahead of schedule, trending upward rather than going in a straight line. Kermit Davis and his staff will not settle for being consistently average.

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ACROSS

1 Death, in France

5 Eur. carrier

8 What Richard III offered "my kingdom" for

14 Banned apple spray

15 Half a fly

16 Delaware tribe

17 Cloudlike

19 Labyrinthine

20 Meat, lettuce, cheese and tomato in a foot-long bun?

22 Source of iron

23 Sends out

24 Matured

26 Wedge-shaped

29 ___ kwon do

32 Kentucky college

33 Mistake

37 Like afterschool activities

40 Arizona sights

41 Drench

42 Thoroughfares

43 A dish best served cold, it's said

45 Small opening

48 Puppeteer Lewis

53 Therapists' org.

54 Amused

58 Narrate

DOWN

1 Parsonage

2 Fuming sulphuric acid

3 Temple leader

4 Faith

5 Greek portico

6 Org.

7 Bird feed

8 Buzz in space

9 Helmet

10 The loneliest number

11 Hazardous gas

12 Surplus

13 Caught congers

18 Mil. officers

21 Floor covering

25 Hose hue

26 Fairly dry, when describing champagne

27 Cautious

28 Long-legged bird

29 Pro

30 Lumberjack's tool

31 "The X-Files" extras

32 Tin or zinc, e.g.

34 "Treasure Island" monogram

35 Cereal grain

36 Monopoly quartet: Abbr.

38 ___ avis

39 British verb ending

44- Sport of hunting

45 N Atlantic archipelago

46 ___ can of worms

47 Speed contests

48 ___ Paulo

49 Takes on

50 Make ___ of (write down)

51 Leases

52 Thoughts

55 Psyche parts

56 Few and far between

57 Skier's transport

59 Henri's here

SOLUTION TO 03.22.2019 PUZZLE

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9			6					
2	7			8				6
	8	6		4	3	1	9	2
	9			1	6	5		
		5				2		
		3	4	5			7	
7	5	9	1	6		4	8	
3				7			2	5
					5			9

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

NOVICE

6	1	7	5	3	8	2	9	4
5	2	9	4	7	6	8	1	3
3	8	4	2	6	1	9	5	7
1	7	6	8	5	4	3	2	9
8	9	2	7	6	3	5	4	1
4	3	5	6	1	2	7	9	8
2	6	1	3	4	7	5	8	9
9	4	3	6	8	5	1	7	2
7	5	8	1	2	6	4	3	9

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Rebel season ends with early exit from tournament

JACK GENTRY
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Ole Miss had its trip to the dance cut short, falling to Oklahoma 95-72 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament and ending the 2018-19 campaign. It was all Oklahoma, as the Sooners were able to enjoy a 20-point lead for the majority of the contest behind an impressive shooting performance. Oklahoma coasts to a second-round matchup against Virginia, but the Rebels will head home with their heads held high. After being selected to finish last in the SEC preseason poll, the Rebels close out Kermit Davis’s first year as head coach with a 20-13 (10-8) record in the 2018-19 season.

“I’m so proud of these guys. They were unbelievable all year long,” Kermit Davis said. “Obviously, we didn’t play like we wanted today, but to be with this group the whole year, I’m extremely excited about our future.”

While Ole Miss battled nerves early, the Sooners stormed out of the gates, immediately jumping out to a 12-0 lead behind six quick points from the Big 12’s Most Improved Player, Kristian Doolittle. While the Rebels struggled to knock the lid off of the rim, Oklahoma started the game connecting on 9 of its first 11 field goal attempts to build an early 19-7 lead over the Rebels.

The Rebels’ shaky start put them in a position where they would have to play from behind, which led to uptight play and shots that were off the mark.

Ole Miss had nine first-half turnovers compared to the Sooners’ one. Sloppy play left the Rebels staring at a 50-33 deficit at the half. The 50 first-half points allowed by Ole Miss were a season high. Rashard Odomes led the Sooners with

14 points on 6-7 from the floor, followed by Christian James, who had nine points on 3-5 from beyond the arc. Terence Davis and Devontae Shuler kept Ole Miss in the game, combining for 22 of the Rebels’ 33 points on 8-11 shooting in the first half.

The second half began much like the first, with Oklahoma bursting out of the locker room knocking down 7-8 from the floor to open the final 20 minutes. Ole Miss countered with a fast start as well, opening the half knocking down 4 of its first 6 shots from the floor trimming Oklahoma’s lead to 13, with a score of 55-42, with just less than 18 minutes remaining in the game.

However, as the game dragged on, it became evident that Ole Miss did not have an answer for Oklahoma’s offensive attack. The Sooners broke the game wide open, going on a 16-2 run and extending their lead to 86-57 with under six minutes to play. From that point forward, it was all Sooners, as Oklahoma finished the contest shooting 57 percent from the floor and scoring a season-high 95 points. “Obviously, it was a really disappointing day for our team. Right from the start, Oklahoma — give all the credit — Oklahoma totally outclassed, out-toughed us. They played really, really well. This is not going to define who we are,” Kermit Davis said.

Odomes and James paced the Sooners, with each scoring 20 points, while Doolittle followed with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Brady Manek chipped in with 18 points on 7-9 shooting.

Senior Terence Davis led the way for Ole Miss in his final game as a Rebel, scoring 17 points, dishing out 6 assists and snagging 5 rebounds, which were all team highs. Devontae Shuler finished with 13 points, Blake Hinson ended up with 11,



Ole Miss head coach Kermit Davis communicates with guard Breein Tyree (left) during a first-round game in the NCAA Tournament in Columbia, South Carolina, on Friday, March 22.

and Tyree dropped 10. Bruce Stevens had 9 points in his final game in an Ole Miss uniform.

Although the loss will leave a sour taste in the mouths of Ole Miss fans, the success the Rebels enjoyed in Kermit Davis’s first season as head coach will not go unnoticed. After a 12-20 (5-13) season last year, the Rebels proved doubters wrong all season, finishing in a tie for sixth in the SEC while notching 20 wins en route to their first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2015.

“I was really proud of their improvement, but for us to really be a contender in the SEC, bodies have to change, we have to develop a lot better depth so there is still a lot of work for us to do,” Kermit Davis said.

Kermit Davis also earned SEC Coach of the Year honors for the turnaround he was able to orchestrate with this Ole Miss team, which went much further than polls and coaches predicted this year.

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Students volunteer across Oxford for The Big Event



PHOTOS: KATHERINE BUTLER

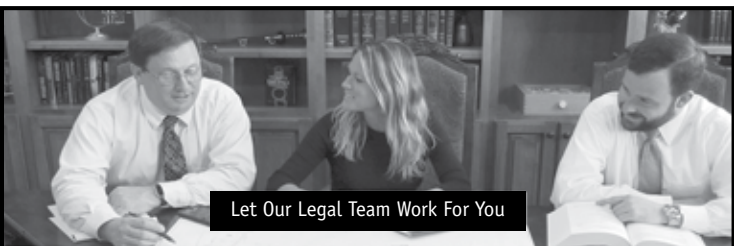
Camaryn Donaldson helps to clean up the playground at Lafayette Elementary School, where several volunteers came together to serve the Oxford community.



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Volunteers cleaned windows and did gardening work at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



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